

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/774,758	HAMADA ET AL.	
	Examiner Kyle M. Pendergrass	Art Unit 2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS**. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 11/23/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2-6; renumbered as claims 1-6.
3. The drawings filed on 31 January 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER



The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The invention is directed to a conventional fixing roller.

Claim 1 identifies the uniquely distinct features of a fixing apparatus for fixing a toner image on a transfer sheet, comprising: a fixing roller comprising a cylindrical light-transmitting base body, made of a glass material capable of transmitting a heat ray; a light-transmitting elastic layer including a first light-transmitting elastic layer provided on an outer periphery of said light-transmitting base body and made of a material having a hardness A1, and a second light-transmitting elastic layer provided on an outer periphery of said first light-transmitting elastic layer and made of a material having a hardness A2, wherein the hardness A1 is greater than the hardness A2; and a heat ray absorbing layer provided on an outer periphery of said light-transmitting elastic layer and to absorb said heat ray.

The closest prior art, Isogai, does not teach a base body made of glass, that the two elastic layers around the base body should have different hardness, or that hardness A1 of the inner elastic layer is greater than the hardness A2 of the outer elastic layer. Isogai only teaches that the core material can only be made of metal (column 6, line 44, column 8 line 28, column 9, line 2 and column 10, line 3). Nowhere does Isogai suggest or reference the problem which was faced and solved by the applicants submission, namely, the poor circularity of the core or the uneven surface of the core which is a problem with glass cores as pointed out by the applicant. The closest prior art either singularly or in combination with other cited references fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyle Pendergrass whose telephone number is (571) 272-7438. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00.

Art Unit: 2624

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Kyle Pendergrass

05/06/05

KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER